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THE POPULATION

—OF THE—

HAWAIIAN ISLANDS

II.

NATIVE POPULATION.

Truly, the rapid decrease of the Hawaiian Aborigines within the last hundred years has caused it to be taken for granted that, like so many other uncivilized races suddenly thrown into contact with the white civilisation, this race also was condemned to utter extinction in a very short lapse of time, an idea repeated as a positive fact by many would-be authorities who ought to know better. In reality, to formulate any such off handed opinion on the question is merely a proof of presumption or prejudice, because the past decrease does not fatally warrant its continuance, no more than it did in the case of the New-Zealand Maories, and because the question is really a difficult one, even to the earnest student, owing to the lack of positive, trustworthy statistics. The Government Censuses, and deductions therefrom, have never been reliable, or at least only so as approximations, and the only rational way of checking and adjusting those official figures,—viz: by comparing them with the return of arrivals and departures, and of birth and deaths,—is utterly unavailable, on account of the constant evasions of the Custom and Shipping regulations, and of the very loose system of Registration or "Etat-Civil" kept here. Even in Honolulu, this registration is very imperfect; but, in the out-districts, and especially in such as are thinly populated with scattered inhabitants, it is merely nominal, and quite a number of deaths, as well as of births, go absolutely unnoticed, unrecorded.

However, there is a growing opinion, among thinking men, that the rapid notion of the impending extinction of the Hawaiian Race is, to say the least, premature. Several of the leading Natives do not even hesitate to say that, at the present time, the harping on that erroneous idea, is only a bugbear used for political purposes, by the small clique of Foreigners who want to override the Native element, and conveniently justify their despoiling policy. In other words, the sentiment seems to be crystallising that the decrease of the Aborigines has seen its lowest ebb and that the tide has begun to turn, so that, owing to the very prolific nature of their Half-castes, the Hawaiians can no longer be expected to disappear, if they are at all taken care of as a Nation, both sanitarily and politically.

An enquiry on this matter may therefore be interesting, starting from the various findings of the official Censuses, but taking them only for what they may be worth, and not going however further back than that of 1823, the first attempt at a count made by the missionaries. The previous figures, based on a loose estimate by Cap. Cook, are absolutely devoid of any scientific accuracy and value, and moreover various extraordinary causes,—bitter wars and the great pestilence of 1805, (the "oku"), most certainly the Asiatic Cholera—contributed to make the decrease quite exceptional between 1779 and 1823.

We shall thus obtain one Table, B, showing the official figures embracing the pure Natives and the Hawaiians Half-castes taken together, as a whole Native Nation; and another one, C, differentiating the two elements, as divided since 1866 only.

TABLE B.—DECREASE OF NATIVES.

Census Years	Total Foreign Population	Total Native and Half-castes	Total Decrease in	Percent of Decrease	Yearly Rate of Decrease	Causes
1823	—	142,050	—	—	—	—
1832	—	130,315	9 yr. 11,735	8.2	1,304.0	—
1836	—	108,579 (a)	4 " 21,736	16.6	5,434.0	—
1850	1,902 (b)	82,203	14 " 26,376	24.3	1,884.0	ulali, measles
1853	2,119	71,019	3 " 11,184	12.3	3,728.0	small-pox
1860	2,716	67,084 (c)	7 " 3,935	5.5	562.1	normal condition
1866	4,194	38,765	6 " 8,319	12.4	1,386.5	leprosy, whalers 1865
1872	5,456	51,531	6 " 7,234	12.3	1,205.7	loss whalers 1871
1878	10,383	47,502	6 " 4,023	7.8	670.5	normal condition
1884	36,346	44,232	6 " 3,276	6.8	546.0	—
1890	40,278	40,022	6 " 3,610	8.1	601.6	—

- (a) including the few foreigners then residing on the Islands;
(b) including 339 white children and 558 half-caste children, but not including 165 white wives, the total of adult male Foreigners being really 1,045;
(c) Inventing the Chinese living in Honolulu;
(d) Owing to the above burden of counting these Chinese with the Natives, the percentages of the two periods are faulty, and I consider that the proportions would be more nearly correct at respectively 6.8 instead of 5.5, and 11.2 instead of 12.4.

TABLE C.

Census Years	Total Natives	Apparent Increase in Period	Decrease Per Year	Total Half-castes	Positive Increase in Period	Positive Increase Per Year
1866	57,125	—	—	1,640	—	—
1872	49,044	8,081	1346.8	2,487	847	141.1
1878	44,088	4,956	826.0	3,429	934	155.5
1884	40,014	4,074	679.0	4,218	798.5	133.0
1890	34,456	5,558	926.3	6,186	1,968	328.0
Official Increase in 6 yrs 13.9 per cent.				Official Increase in 6 years 46.6 per cent.		
1890	30,000	My Own Estimate	—	11,000	My Own Estimate	—

- (a) I contested this figure in 1886, and still maintain that it was erroneous and ought to have been about 1,100.

In a general way, the above Tables go to show a total Decrease, in 67 years, of 107, 614 Natives,—75 per cent. of the whole amount,—or taking into account the increasing Hawaiian Half-castes, a loss of 101,438, or 72 per cent. making an annual mean decrease of 1514 people. Arguing on a similar rate, after the Census of 1850, the Missionaries prophesied from the pulpit, the complete extinction of the Natives within the 40 years now just elapsed (1). whilst, on the contrary, the number of Natives still existing to day represents as much as one-half of the number recorded in 1850, their yearly rate of the decrease is considerably lessened, and there is a growing factor of Half-castes which the Missionaries not foresee, though several of them are

(1) Many intelligent Natives agree that this missionary prediction was the expression of their wishes still more than of their expectations, because they were anticipating to see their own children sole possessors of the whole country, through the extinction of the aborigines; and it is certainly this anticipation, unconsciously imbued by them, together with the resulting sentiment of considering themselves as the natural leaders, and the country as their rightful inheritance, that led the present unpopular descendants of Missionaries, to their infamous scheme of power against all Native rights, in the 1893 revolution.

accused by the Natives of having had quite a share in starting its growth. Therefore, the present conditions would seem to grant at least 30 more years for the total disappearance of the pure Hawaiians. But, at the end of that same period, the Hawaiian Half-castes promise to number at least 50,000, perhaps 100,000 (2), without taking into account the rapidly growing element of Hawaiian-born Foreigners, part at least of which can be expected to coalesce into them.

None of the above figures however can be expected to carry all their apparent significance, for the reasons now to be more especially enumerated:

- A) the last Census is incomplete;
B) it is erroneous under the respective headings of Natives and Half-castes;

C) it does not allow any estimate of loss from emigration.

A.—The last Census was ordered at a very late hour, and the superintendent thereof acknowledges that he had barely the indispensable time required for appointing enumerators and giving them the necessary material, instructions and explanations. It cannot therefore be surprising that, in the distant districts, principally on Hawaii, Maui and Kauai, many enumerators were incompetent or indifferent, or did not understand thoroughly their work, so that the People could not obtain the proper information to render complete and correct reports. The result of this is known, among the leading Natives, to be that quite a number of Hawaiians, grown-up people and children, has not been enumerated.

B.—The same argument applies to the returns of the Half-castes, with more especially these two further causes of error:

1st. That many real Half-castes have been reported in the distant districts, as pure Natives, who ought to be transposed to the Half-castes account. Any one acquainted with the Natives can testify that they very easily overlook any accidental admixture of foreign blood, and consider themselves pure Natives when brought up exclusively by Natives, away from foreign influence; moreover—with the old native rule that the rank came from the mother and did not follow the father,—every person who has an Hawaiian mother is Hawaiian to the full extent. In fact, nearly all the present native leaders are Half-castes in various degree, and yet are readily granted the influence and authority of full Natives. Therefore,—and if only by reason of the licentiousness of former years—no well-informed man can hesitate to readily admit that unmixed Natives must be considerably less than the number officially reported. A good illustration of this assertion, out of many to my own knowledge, will be the following: When a well-known American Commodore, in his exploring expedition, made the ascent of the Maunaloa mountain, he was escorted by a troop of natives from Puna; during the trip, he took a fancy to one of the native girls, who nine months later gave birth to a boy, thus clearly a half-caste; but, having been kept by his native parents in Puna, where he married a native woman and reared an unusually large family, this man and his children have been enumerated as pure Hawaiians. Yet, a gentleman, a friend of mine, who knows this man well and has seen the portraits of his American father, has always been struck with the characteristic resemblance between the two.

2nd. Many enumerators seem to have been sorely puzzled on the question of the children of Chinamen married to half or three-quarter Chinese-Hawaiian women; these most certainly ought also to be enumerated as half castes, as it is a very noticeable fact that the tendencies, tastes, ideas and patriotism of half-castes, whatever may be their degree, and the nationality of the father,—always and most decidedly bend to their Hawaiian mother's side. Consequently, in the last Census, quite a number of these cases have erroneously gone to swell the number of Chinese to the detriment of the half caste enumeration.

From these various facts, it is a safe to conclude that the figures of the last Census are:

- Deficient as a general total for the Natives;
Too large in the amount of reported pure Natives;
Too small by two elements, in the number of half castes and Too large in the amount of Chinese children.

A more rigid and enlightened enquiry at the next Census (1896), must therefore show more half castes and less full natives than might be expected through the last returns, and will consequently prove that the reproductive power of the nation is still greater than the proportions hereinabove deducted from the Census.

C.—The third cause through which the results of all the various Hawaiian Censuses do certainly give a wrong impression as to the true rate of decrease of the pure native elements, is that they have never allowed the enquirer to make any difference between the natural decrease due to the natural excess of deaths over births, and the artificial one caused by natives leaving the country, whereby they may be lost to the enumeration here, but cannot be used to show or swell a tendency to a decrease in the race.

To elucidate this point, it is necessary to briefly examine the probable causes and reasons of the recorded decrease. The following have been broadly mentioned, some of which do account for the unusual rapidity of decrease during some periods: the disease introduced with civilisation, deadly epidemics of measles and small-pox, and later, leprosy; to these may be added early intemperance and licentiousness, infanticide or more properly foeticide (3) sickness resulting from carelessness in connection with the new modes of living and clothing suddenly imposed by the Missionaries, the constant disproportion of sexes, and last, but not least, emigration.

(2) Some kind people, who do not know probably the first elementary rules of arithmetic and of increase of population, have been deriving these proportions of Mr. Marques, as absolutely fanciful. Yet, that they are only a low estimate of the possibilities, can be easily verified. The Census of 1890, shows that only a little over one-half of our half-caste women over 15 years of age, were married (exactly 754), and yet these have already doubled (1894) the half-caste population during the last Census period (1884 to 1890). Supposing them to have again one child each every year, during the next 12 years, this would give us a possibility of about 9000 children; then supposing the balance (657) of unmarried half-caste females, of the same age, to have married and borne in the same proportion, this would give 7900 children more; then again taking note of the fact that, from the number (1,710) who were still under 15 years in 1890, over 1200 will have unconsciously married and may be supposed to give birth to say 7500 children more. All this gives a total possible amount of half-castes, for the year 1902, of 30,000—, without including the possible and probable additions from full native women marrying foreigners or half-castes, while Mr. Marques only estimates 20,000 for that same date. Will any school boy continue the calculation up to the year 1925, to complete the period of 30 years mentioned by Mr. Marques?

(3) The Hawaiian Islands have never been naturally fertile and in older times, the large aboriginal population only subsisted through dint of hard work. Infanticide must then have resulted as a matter of dire necessity, as it is in China; and it is reported that as many as two-thirds of the children born were systematically destroyed, either in the womb or after birth, these last usually by being buried alive, often in the very best of the paucity. It is not to be wondered that that infanticide should have been the last of the heathen customs to yield to Christian teachings, and though now it is a criminal offense extremely rare, yet some instances of it may yet happen, principally to favor prostitution.